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TOUE *IN* ITALY [CHAP,

It must have been on this journey through the Alps that Disraeli made an excursion to the Great St. Bernard, and the visit rewarded him with an incident which he used to recall in later years.

The Brotherhood on hearing that a young Englishman was in the Hospice expressed an anxious desire to see me, and I waited on the Superior. I found that all the anxiety arose from a desire to hear how the Thames Tunnel had succeeded. I had to confess I had never seen it, and I afterwards reflected that one must travel to learn what really is to be seen in one's country, and resolved at once on my return to supply the omission. But do you know, I have never seen it yet.¹

In Milan, under the guidance of his friend Ciceri, Disraeli saw, in addition to Leonardo's great picture, everything notable that there was to be seen: the Cathedral, for which he has only qualified praise; 'it stands alone without a rival, but whether rivalry is desirable is dubious'; the Brera, where strangely enough the two pictures that struck him most were Salvator's 'Souls being delivered from Purgatory' and Guercino's 'Abraham dismissing Hagar' — but those were the days before Ruskin; and the Ambrosian Library, where, more in accordance with modern taste, he notes 'an exquisite Holy Family by Luini — a mannerist who for once is delicious.' Nor had he an eye only for churches and pictures. A visit to the Corso leads to many reflections on the life and manners of the Milanese; and here we come across the original of a sketch in the second part of *Vivian Grey*.

Count Ciconia is the leader of the *ton* at Milan. He is a dandy of genius, worthy of Brummell. He is about 45, dresses very plainly, has been frequently in England, and pays constant trips there to study. He is young in figure, but his face is long and old, a

bachelor with a loud shrill voice. He is curious in horses, drives four-in-hand in perfect style and was attended always by English grooms till their idleness forced him to give them up. They will not do for

¹ JTrom a note by Lord Eowton.